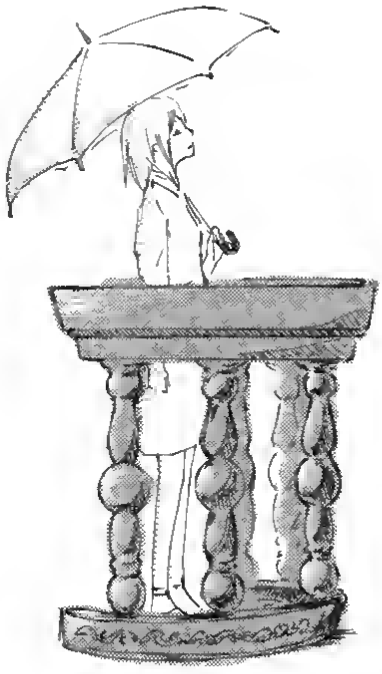
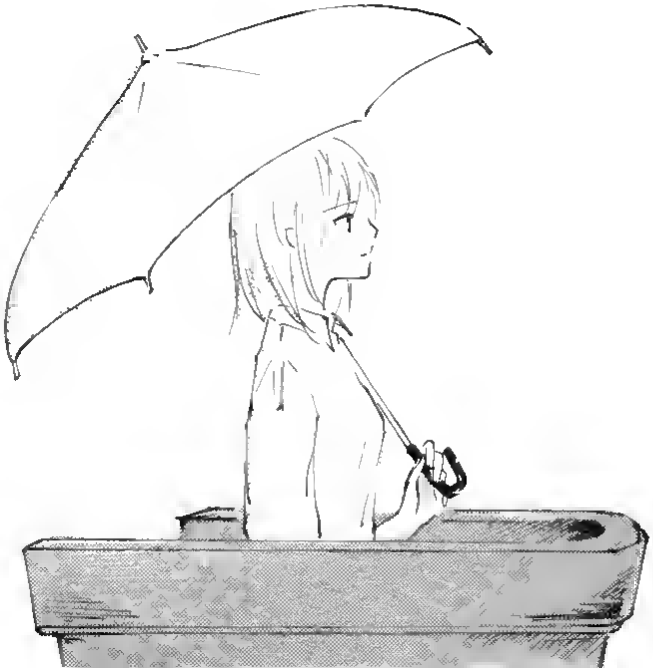
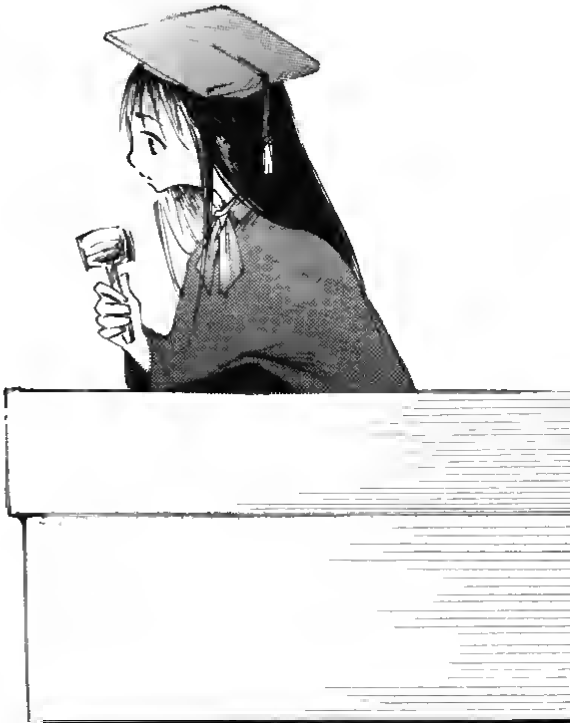
水深



KEI-
CHAN?

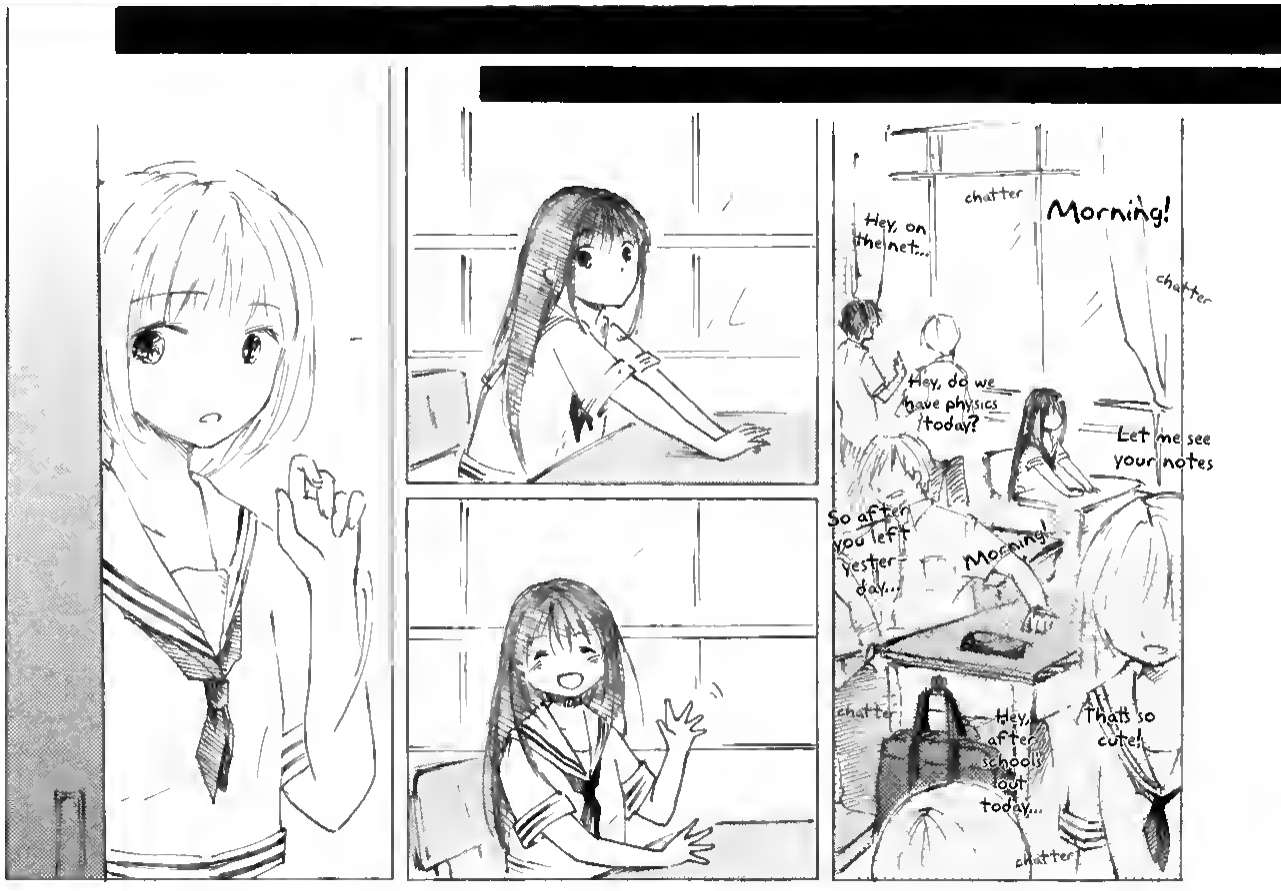


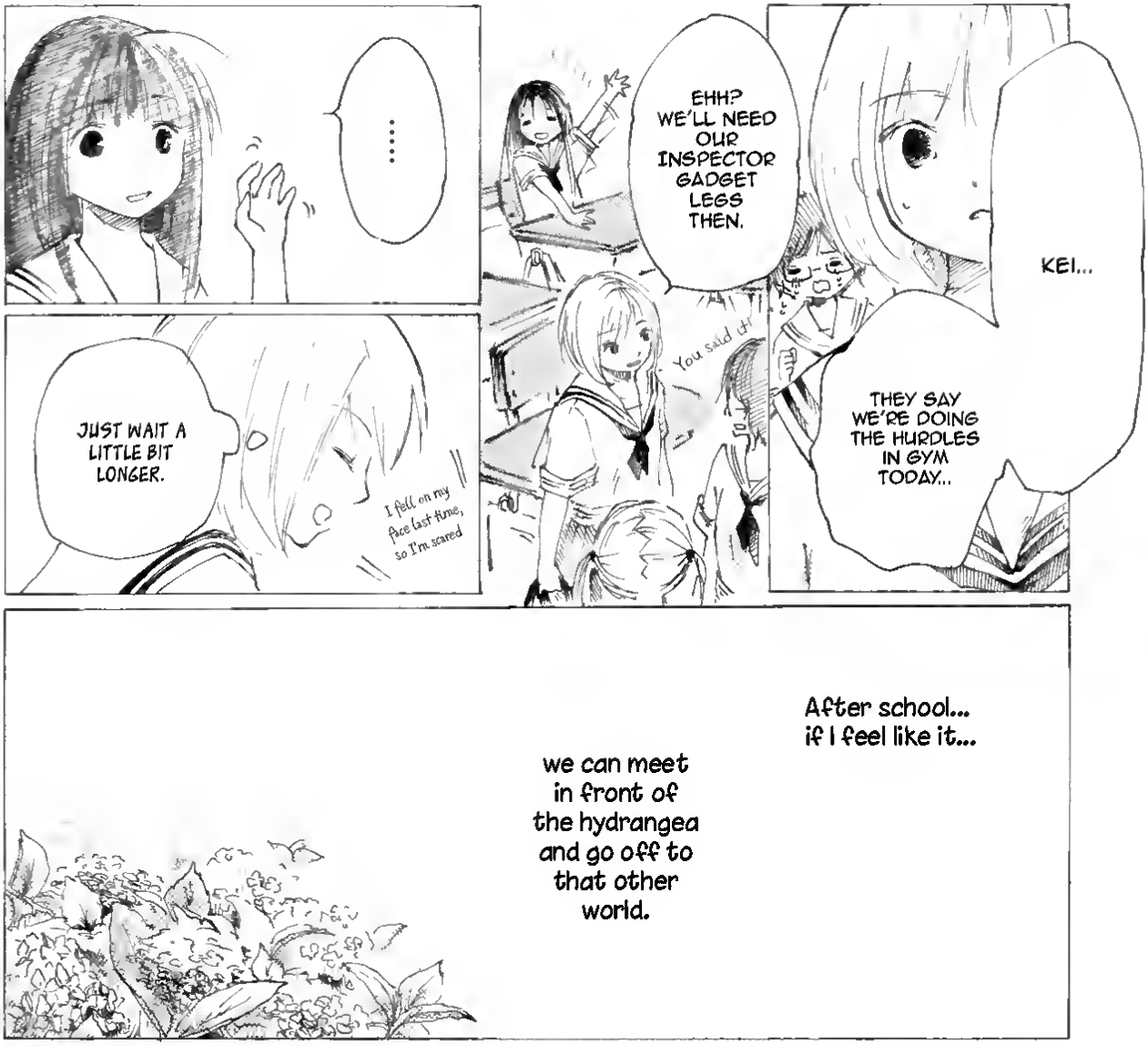


IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
HAVE YOU BEEN WELL?
..AN UMBRELLA ?
WELL, THE WEATHER REPORT DID SAY IT MIGHT START RAINING THIS AFTERNOON.

POISONOUS.
THAT'S...
SHOOT. I WENT AND DID IT.
AH...

I talked to "Kumura Fuyo."




KEI...
THEY SAY WE'RE DOING THE HURDLES IN GYM TODAY...
EHH? WE'LL NEED OUR INSPECTOR GADGET LEGS THEN.
You said it!
JUST WAIT A LITTLE BIT LONGER.
I fell on my face last time, so I'm scared
.....
After school... if I feel like it...
we can meet in front of the hydrangea and go off to that other world.
KEI-CHAN!

YOU'RE SO WARM!
YOU'RE SO COLD.
WHERE'S YOUR COAT?
I TOOK IT OFF THIS MORN-ING,
AND FOR-GOT IT.
OH!
OH!
There was some sort of sentiment there, if nothing else.
OHHH!
A cat a cat!
Even in the most meaningless phrases.
HEY, KEI-CHAN.
DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME...
YOU EVER MADE A ROLLED OMELETTE?

YEP, I REMEMBER IT.
AND THEN?
IT TASTED LIKE A ROLLED OM-ELETTE.
I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GATHER IT ALL UP AND KEEP IT FLAT.
SO I JUST PILED UP LAYERS LIKE MILLE-FEUILLE AND CUT A RECTANGLE OUT OF IT.
DID IT GO WELL?
NOPE.
Fuyo has asked to hear this story many times.

A comfortable feeling something like despair.

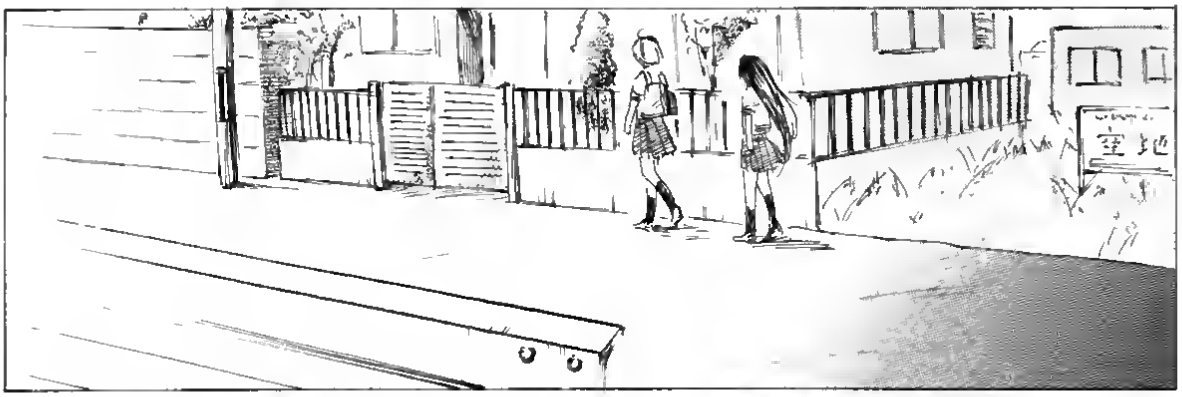
Like sinking into a clear ocean, but one whose bottom depths you can't see.

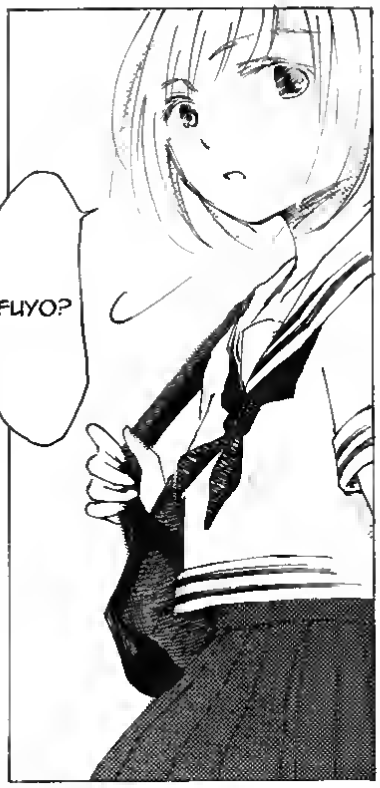
SO WHERE ARE YOU WORKING THESE DAYS, KEI-CHAN?
I WAS INSTITUTIO-NALIZED FOR ABOUT A MONTH.
SO... WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?
I SEE...
OH, AH...
I'M A WAITRESS. WHAT ABOUT YOU, FUYO?
I CLEAN HOUSES.
MY FATHER SAID THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ME TO GO TO HIGH SCHOOL, SO I DROPPED OUT.
JUST BE-CAUSE YOUR DAD SAID SO?
I'VE NOTICED IF I BELIEVE IN WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAY INSTEAD OF MYSELF, I'M RIGHT MORE OFTEN.
ACTING THE WAY I WANT TO, I JUST CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR PEOPLE.

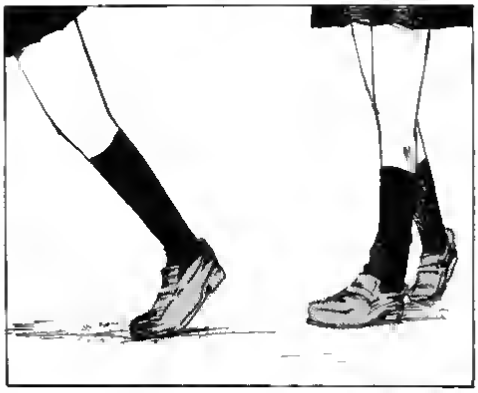
Fuyo smiled,

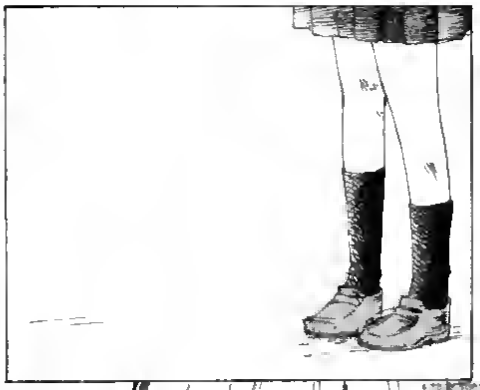
with eyes like a dead fish.

But this bug came out of nowhere and I said Ahhh! and whoosh, it went flying...
Because y'see... I'm so forgetful! So I... So I was gonna make a note, but...
Heh
I'm look-ing for a mechanical pencil!
Oh! It's a pencil!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'LL HELP.
THIS?
AH, THAT'S IT!
THIS WAS HER BIRTHDAY PRESENT FROM ME... IT WAS 380 YEN
WHAT WAS THE NOTE?
It's half-finished...
OH... What was it again?
TAKESHI?
WHAT ON EARTH?
AH, THAT'S RIGHT! THEY'RE REPLAYING "TAKESHI'S WIDE WORLD OF NATURE" STARTING AT 4!
Takeshi
RIGHT NOW IT'S 5.
HEH HEH...
HA HA...




FUYO?





AH, KEI-CHAN... YOU KNOW, MY FATHER SAID HE'LL BE STAYING IN JAPAN A BIT LONGER.
OH, REALLY?

I DON'T WANNA GO HOME...

I'LL COME AND APOLOGIZE WITH YOU.
MOM AND DAD...
LOOK AT ME FUNNY...
THEY'LL JUST GET MAD AT ME AGAIN...
I'M ALL... COVERED IN MUD...
WHY DO YOU...
HANG AROUND ME, KEI-CHAN?

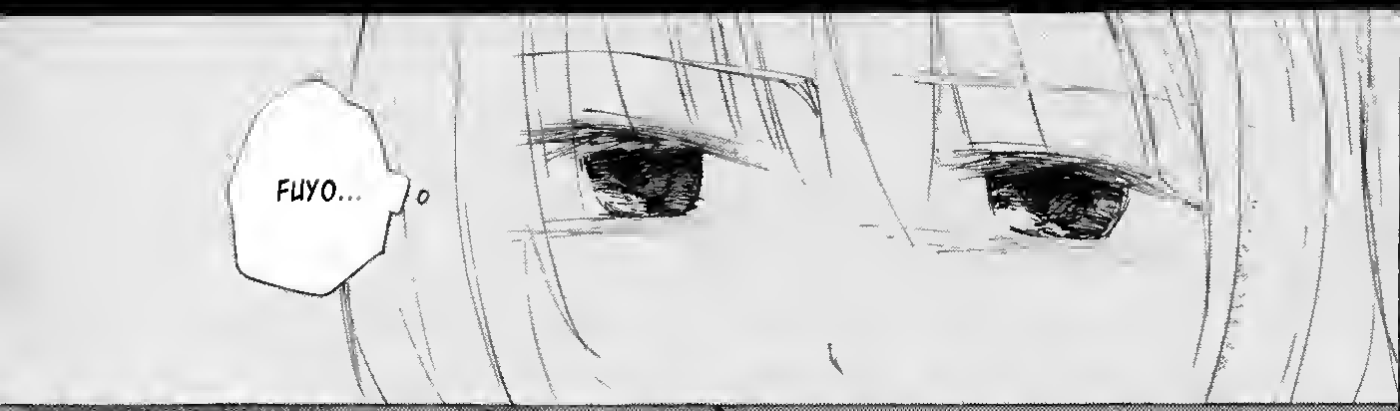
Why is that?

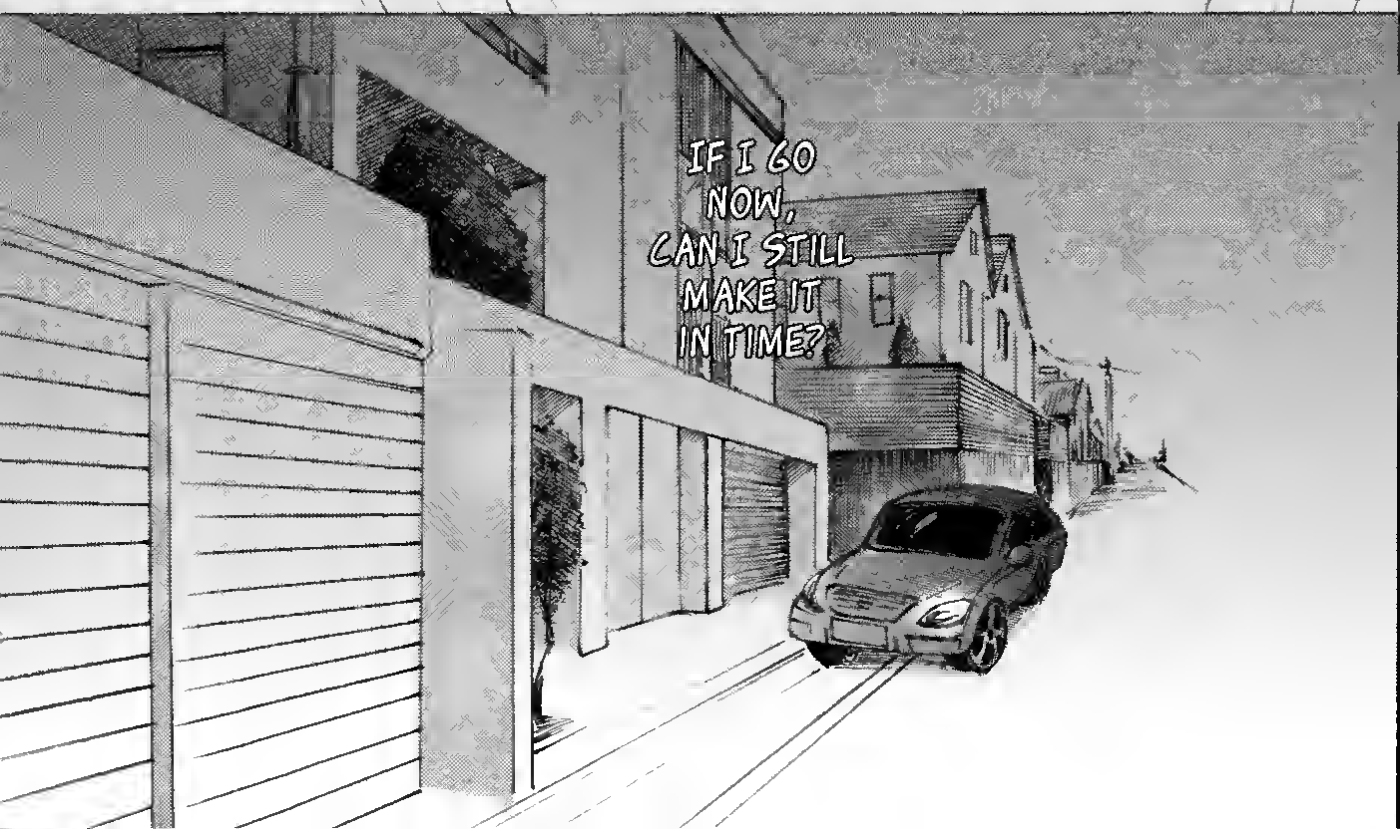
I wonder...

MM...
EH?
PWAH!
KEI-...
CHAN?
WHAT...
DID I JUST
DO?

Sinking down, getting sucked in.

I know the thing waiting for me at the bottom... is Fuyo.





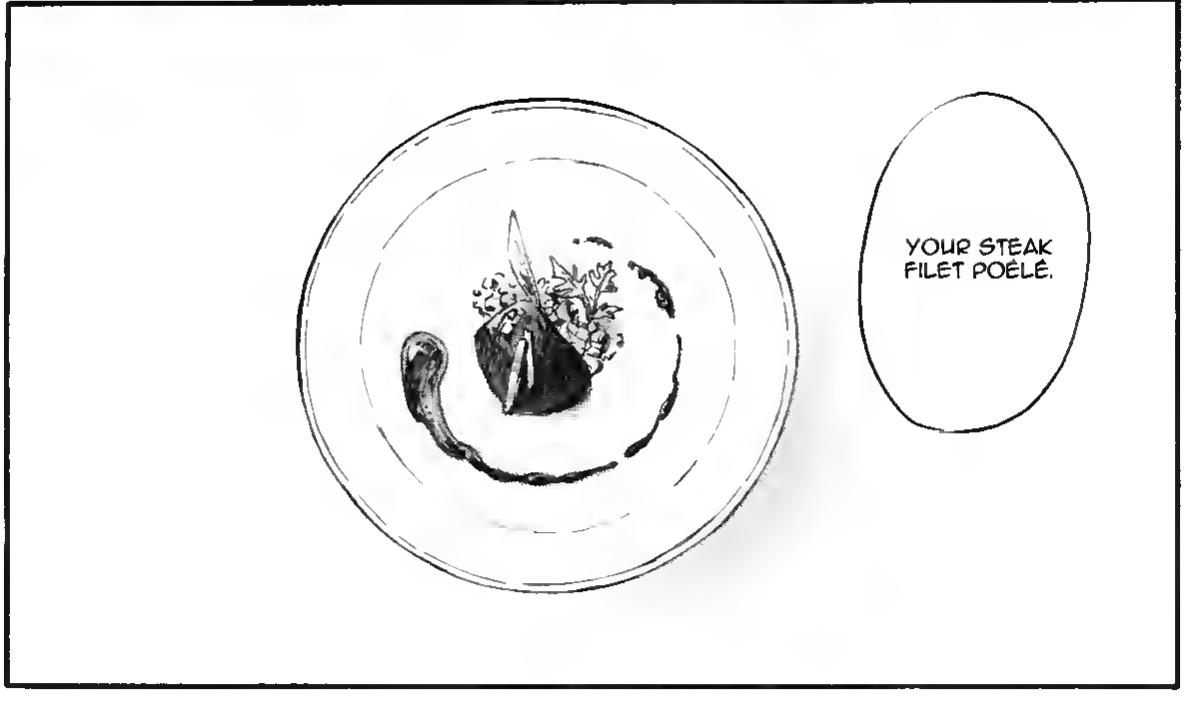
!
KEI-CHAN!
AH!
I DON'T WANT TO!
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. WE'RE JUST TAKING YOU DOWN TO A DOCTOR YOUR FATHER KNOWS.
QUIET DOWN, PLEASE, YOU'LL DISTURB THE NEIGH-BORS!
I WON'T GET MY UNIFORM DIRTY ANYMORE, I PROMISE!
SEE, I DO HAVE A FRIEND!
AH!
FUYO!
YOU CAME FOR ME!
AH-
HAS OUR DAUGHTER BEEN CAUSING A LOT OF BOTHER FOR YOU, BY ANY CHANCE?
YOU'RE FUYO'S FRIEND ?

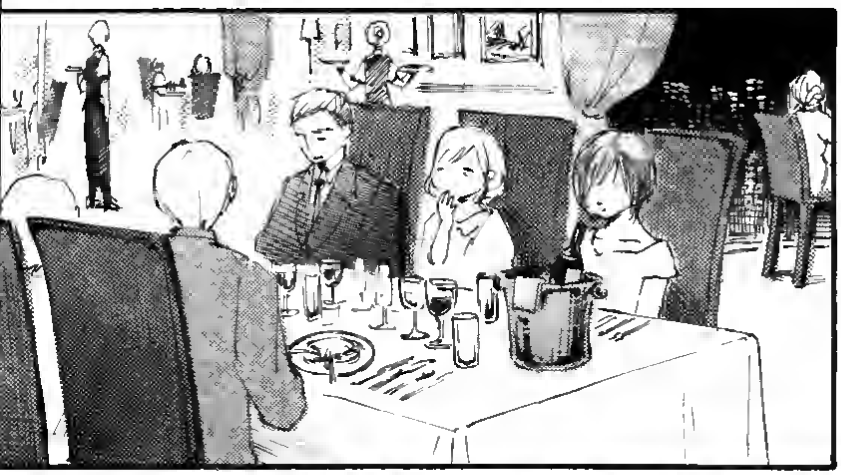
FU...
KEI-CHAN...
FUYO, SHE'S... A LITTLE STRANGE.

I'm such an idiot...

We both felt the same way...

I'LL SPEAK TO THE DIRECTOR MYSELF.
WE THINK YOU'RE MORE SUITED FOR FAMILY THAN WORK, FUYO-CHAN.
SORRY FOR KEEPING QUIET ABOUT THIS UNTIL TODAY.
BUT YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, FUYO-CHAN.
MEET WITH THEM, THAT'S ALL WE'RE ASKING.
JUST LISTEN TO WHAT YOUR FATHER TELLS YOU AND YOU WON'T GO WRONG.

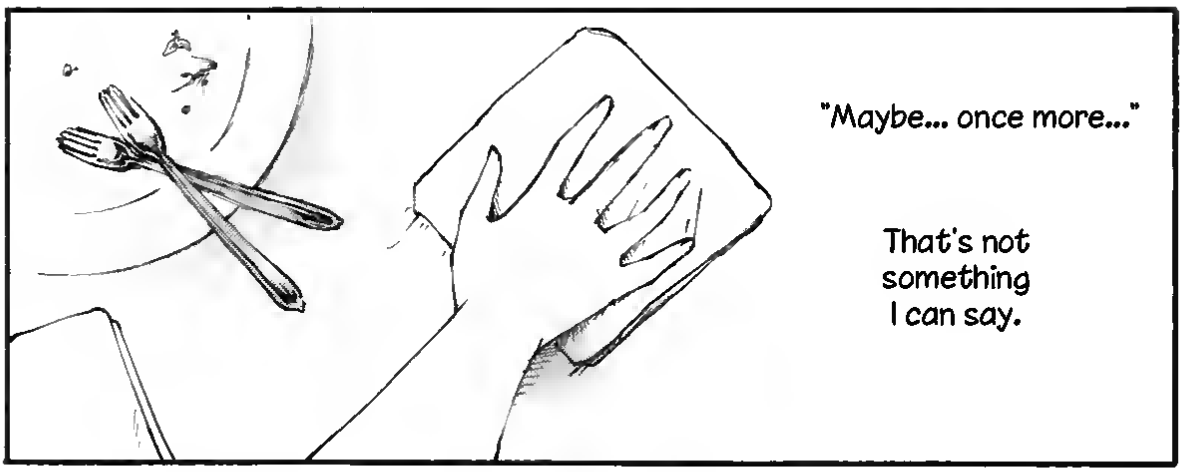

YOUR STEAK FILET POÊLÉ.

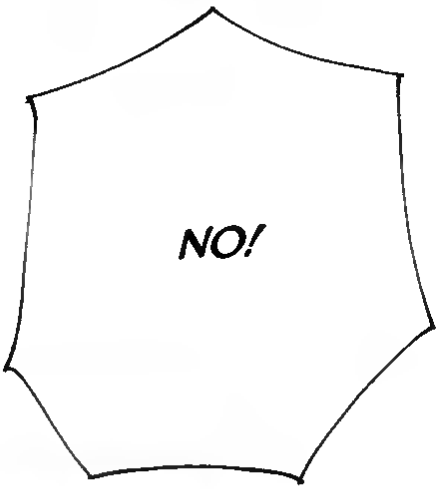


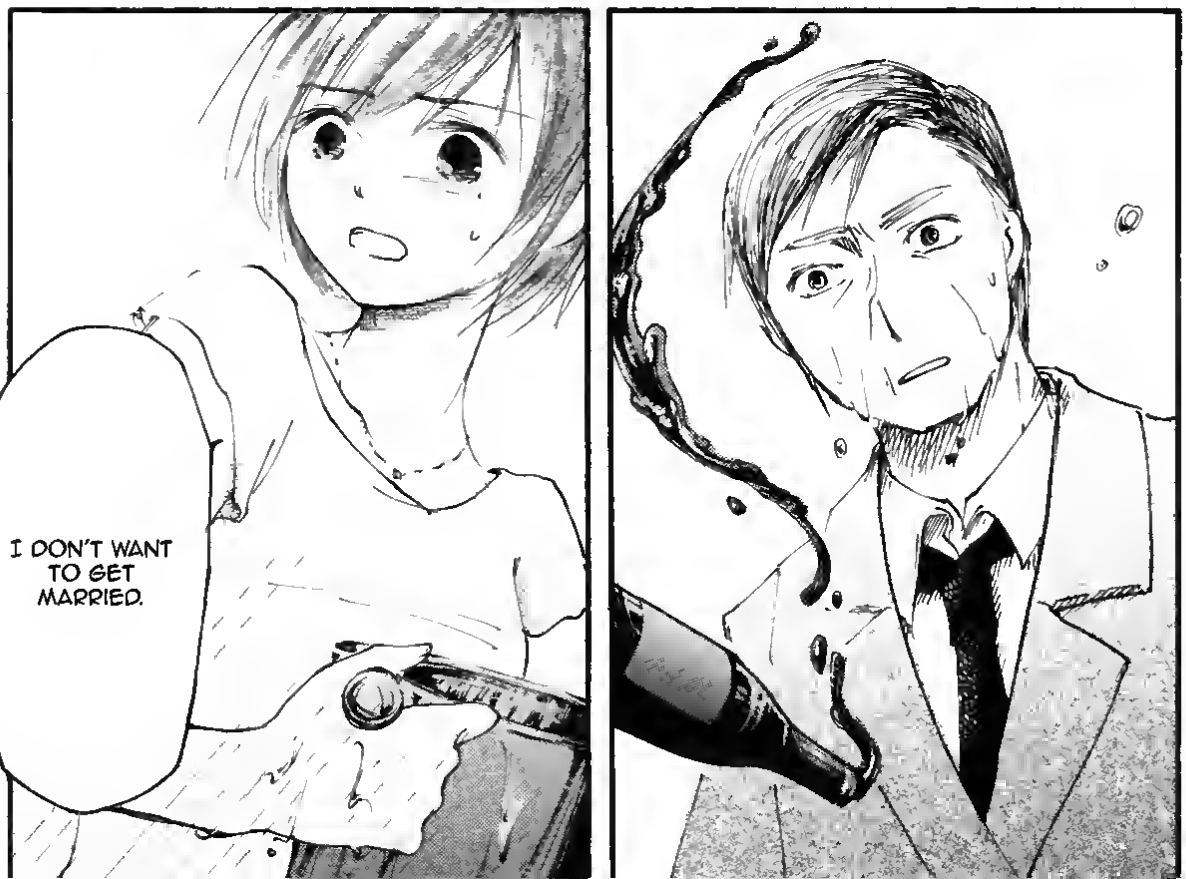
A customer.

A former classmate.

That's all she is.


"Maybe... once more..."
That's not something I can say.


NO!


I DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED.

murmur
murmur
He's dripping wet.
What is it?
Ahem!
EXCUSE ME FOR A SECOND.
You don't have to go too?
Oh! My... do you think I should have?
FUYO!
HEY... WAIT UP!
sighhh

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME!?
FUYO.
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE?
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO SAY TO THEM NOW
COME ON, WE'RE GOING BACK.
AH..
HOW LONG DID YOU PLAN ON HOLDING ON TO THAT CHILDISH THING?
IF YOU NEED A PEN, I'LL BUY YOU ONE.
splash

!
YOU?
.....
COME BACK IN ONCE YOU'VE CALMED DOWN.
SO DON'T START ACTING LIKE YOU'RE ON HER SIDE.
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF BACK THEN.
SHE NEEDS SOMEBODY TO TAKE CARE OF HER.
YOU KNOW FUYO JUST AS WELL AS I DO.
WHAT'S THAT LOOK SUP-POSED TO MEAN?

I'LL GO BACK.
AND YOU'RE STILL WORKING, RIGHT?
K... KEI-CHAN!?
THAT MECHANICAL PENCIL
WHY...? AH! THIS IS WHERE YOU WORK?
I'M SORRY... I'M SURE I CAUSED THE RESTAURANT TROUBLE.
NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO KICK UP A FUSS LIKE THAT..
WHY WON'T YOU HATE ME?
AFTER I PUSHED YOU AWAY LIKE THAT?
I WANT US TO BE FRIENDS AGAIN.
HATE YOU,
KEI-CHAN?

THAT'S WHY I FIXED ALL THE WEIRD PARTS IN MYSELF.
HTOPL—SH

BECAUSE I LOVED YOU.
I PUSHED YOU AWAY...
I'M SORRY...

IF YOU START DOING THINGS LIKE THAT,
PEOPLE WILL THINK YOU'RE CRAZY.
YOU'RE SO HARD TO UNDER-STAND.
GOSH!

THEY'RE GOING TO BE SO MAD...
I LEFT WITHOUT PERMISSION AND GOT MYSELF SOAKING WET.
AHH, MAN...
WELL, SAME FOR ME.
HEY, KEI-CHAN.
THERE WAS ONE THING I WANTED TO ASK.
WHAT'S THAT?
DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME YOU EVER MADE A ROLLED OMELETTE?
End

Water Depth

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